

(520)

NOT BOARD APPROVED

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Budget Meeting – March 6, 2012
Riverhead High School Cafeteria

PRESENT: President, Mrs. Ann Cotten-DeGrasse; Vice President, Mr. Gregory Meyer; Mr. Jeffrey Falisi; Mr. Timothy Griffing; Mr. William Hsiang; Mrs. Amelia Lantz; and, Mrs. Kimberly Ligon.

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Nancy Carney, Dr. Lois Etzel, Mr. Sam Schneider, and Mr. Joseph Ogeka, Jr.

Board President, Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse, called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Call to Order

A motion was made by Mr. Hsiang, seconded by Mr. Meyer, to recess to executive session to discuss negotiations and personnel.

Recess to
Executive Session

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education recessed to executive session at 5:38 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Griffing, seconded by Mr. Falisi, to return to open session.

Return to
Open Session

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:00 p.m.

A brief recess followed.

The meeting resumed at 7:08 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of Allegiance

There were about 15 other people in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara O’Kula.

As stated by Ms. Carney, tonight’s presentation is the culmination of expenditures in the proposed 2012-2013 budget. This portion encompasses Pupil Personnel Services and Special Education, Interscholastic Athletics, Extra-Curricular Activities, and Other Instructional Areas.

Preliminary
2012-2013 Budget
Presentation

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The goal of the Board of Education is to design and adopt a budget that preserves programs for our students to the greatest extent possible and also be efficient and cognizant of taxpayers as to the fiscal reality all our residents are being faced with.

At this point, the proposed budget is slightly under 2% and the Property Tax Cap Disclosure forms have been filed with the state (due March 1). She explained that a lot of changes have affected our budget in the special education area as costs previously borne by the state and county are now being shifted to school districts to support financially.

Special Education & PPS	-	8.20%
Guidance & Attendance	-	-0.84%
Nursing	-	3.93%
Counseling	-	0.84%

In Other Programs, all Adult Education classes are being eliminated. However, we are fortunate that the Harry B. Ward Career & Technical Center provides a lot of the same courses offered. Drivers' Education will continue to be offered to our students on a tuition basis, and, Internet-based technology called, *Right-Reason*, will allow many students to receive instruction and curriculum on-line from home during periods of illness or at school when the academic need requires it.

Career & Technical Education	-	-22.56%
Adult & Continuing Education	-	-83.75%
Summer Schools, Home		
Instruction & Other Programs	-	- 5.33%
Library	-	- 3.34%
Computers	-	- 3.29%
Interscholastic Athletics	-	- 5.51%
Co- & Extra-Curricular		
Activities	-	-14.62%

The District proposes to reduce and consolidate some areas of athletic teams and assistant coaches. The After-School Enrichment Program at the elementary schools has also been eliminated for next year.

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Tonight's presentation is made part of the Supplemental File of the Minutes.

The next budget presentation will be held on March 13.

Comments from the community include:

Community Comments

-a representative of Riverhead SEPTA requested clarification of total expenditures in Special Education not net of any funding or grants. (Per Ms. Carney: We receive significant monies from the government in federal funds that are not included in the General Budget.)

-Riverhead SEPTA will be holding a meeting tomorrow night that addresses food allergies. All are welcome to attend.

-How many Math positions are being excessed? (Answer: 2).

-Are there any cuts to programs like Blue Masques, Show Choir, etc.? (Per Ms. Carney: They are all intact.)

-How much does the District pay in fees to Section XI every year? (Per Mr. Schneider: Approximately \$88,500).

-Do all other parts of New York have a Section XI? (Mr. Meyer stated that the entire state is broken up into different sections.)

-What is the rationale being used to consolidate teams and eliminate assistant coaches? (Dr. Etzel used JV Golf as an example: Based on the number of students who participate, a determination could be made to consolidate JV with Varsity Golf and make one team. The District will look at individual sports to verify enrollment and to make sure we keep in place all programs that have the highest numbers in enrollment. Very few changes have been made.)

-Inquiry as to whether PTO's and other organizations could fund any programs? (Ms. Carney stated that as we move forward, the District would be open-minded to community support.)

-Request that the Board realize the ramifications of the elimination of a health teacher position which would mean that students would have no classes in health education until their junior or senior year in high school. Therefore, students will not be exposed to sensitivity training in alcohol, sex, drugs, etc. that can make a difference in a child's life. Please re-think this issue.

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A motion was made by Mr. Meyer, seconded by Mr. Griffing, to
adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment

Yes 7 No 0
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Barbara O'Kula
District Clerk